



Department of State

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ACTION 88-155

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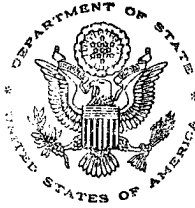
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)
SUBJ: AMAN'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

CHARGE SHOULD DELIVER FOLLOWING PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM
SECRETARY TO GENERAL AMAN:

"MY DEAR GENERAL AMAN. I AM TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
WRITE TO YOU IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONVERSATIONS THAT
HAVE BEEN HELD IN WASHINGTON AND IN ADDIS ABABA BETWEEN
OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING ETHIOPIAN MILITARY RE-
QUIREMENTS. LET ME BEGIN BY ASSURING YOU THAT THIS IS
A SUBJECT THAT HAS RECEIVED MY PERSONAL ATTENTION OVER
THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND THAT IT IS ONE WITH WHICH I
WILL CONTINUE TO CONCERN MYSELF BECAUSE OF THE LONG-
STANDING TIES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE UNITED STATES.
THE CONTINUED INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN ETHIOPIA
HAS RECENTLY BEEN MANIFESTED BY OUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSIS-
TANCE AND DROUGHT RELIEF PROGRAMS AS WELL AS BY THE DIVER-
SION OF CERTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM U.S. ARMED FORCES IN
EUROPE IN ORDER TO MEET ETHIOPIAN PRIORITY MILITARY NEEDS.

"EVER SINCE FINANCE MINISTER NEGASH MET WITH UNDERSECRE-

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TARY OF STATE SISCO IN WASHINGTON EARLIER THIS MONTH, WE HAVE BEEN GIVING CAREFUL CONSIDERATION TO YOUR REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE THROUGH GRANT AID OR FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS. OUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT THE CONGRESS HAS NOT YET ACTED ON THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975 AND BY CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATIONS ON THE TOTAL OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, AND AS A GESTURE OF THE UNITED STATES' DESIRE TO CONTINUE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE TO ETHIOPIA, I HAVE DIRECTED THAT DOLS 8.3 MILLION IN DIRECT FOREIGN MILITARY SALES CREDITS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ETHIOPIA IMMEDIATELY OUT OF THE INTERIM MILITARY AUTHORIZATION THE CONGRESS HAS APPROVED.

"OUR CHARGE D'AFFAIRES HAS DESCRIBED TO ME THE CONTINUING CONCERN OF THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT REGARDING THE NAMING OF A NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ETHIOPIA. YOU WILL RECALL THAT AN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN NAMED BUT WAS UNABLE TO TAKE UP HIS RESPONSIBILITIES BECAUSE OF PERSONAL REASONS. I WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THAT WE ARE NOW WORKING URGENTLY ON THE SELECTION OF A NEW AMBASSADOR, AND I EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO SUBMIT A NAME TO YOU VERY SOON.

"I TRUST, GENERAL AMAN, THAT YOU WILL ACCEPT THE ASSURANCES CONTAINED IN THIS LETTER AND THE DECISION I HAVE MADE REGARDING MILITARY CREDIT ASSISTANCE AS EVIDENCE OF THE CONTINUED GOOD WILL OF THE U.S. TOWARD ETHIOPIA AND OF MY PERSONAL DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE."
KISSINGER

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MSS DIV LIB CONG.